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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1909.

## THE RICHMOND FAIR AND ITS "PIG IN A POKE."

Before the Virginia State Fair opened this paper took occasion to congratulate the management upon its enterprise in securing Glenn H. Curtiss, the famous American aviator, to make daily flights during the fair in his aeroplane. The erroneous information that Curtiss was to appear on the grounds had been published on the strength of voluminous announcements from the fair association, which either intentionally or unintentionally led the public to believe that the world's prize winner would be in Richmond himself to make the widely advertised flights. When it became known that a substitute was to operate the Curtiss machine on the fair grounds, the people accepted the situation nicely enough and from what could be learned at this distance the protests against the misleading advertisements were not nearly so loud and long as might naturally be expected under the circumstances.

The developments of the week, however, have not been calculated to reward the public for its repression. The Curtiss substitute has made flights alright, but from all accounts he has done barely enough daily to have his performances lay claim to such a name. His "flights," from the description of those who have seen him, must have been about as spectacular and interesting as a fairly good exhibition at pole vaulting.

Now the fair people are kicking; they say they have not gotten their money's worth and it is said that an attempt will be made to hold on to a portion of that five thousand dollar roll that the association promised to pay the Aeronautic Exhibition Company before the substitute and machine were sent down. Whether or not this can be done remains to be seen, but the surface indications are that the bill will have to be paid, though the fair didn't get either what the people expected to see or what the association officials actually thought they were going to offer.

That the fair association bought a pig in a poke seems to be shown by the following extract from the contract between the association and the exhibition company, quoted from the Richmond Evening Journal.

"The aviator shall use his best skill and shall on each day make the most spectacular flight within his power. It is to be remembered that the rate of aviation is still yet in its experimental stage, and, therefore, it is agreed that the aviator is to be the sole judge of the conditions, the time at which he will make flights and the character of any spectacular flight."

With the aviator as the "sole judge" it probably will be rather hard for the fair association to prove that the flights which have been made daily on the grounds this week are not what the letter of their contract calls for.

It is said that Foster Willard, the man who has been doing the valuing, is very angry because his performances have caused complaint. If he is angry, the fair people are angry and when the public generally remembers

what it read in the newspapers about the coming of Curtiss, there must be hard feeling all around over this aviation business.

## THE ROANOKE LOCAL OPTION ELECTION.

If the local option election in which Roanoke recently voted "wet" was fairly conducted, the election officials, the head of the city government and the Roanoke public should see to it that reports to the contrary which are being circulated throughout the State are strongly denounced.

As the matter stands now, the general impression seems to be that the election was not honestly conducted. The change in election officials just a few days before the date of the election gave rise to reports that crooked work would be done, and when a judge was arrested on the charge of failing to put into the box a ballot that had been handed him by a voter a large percentage of the people accepted this as evidence that the reports had not been groundless. The fact that the judge was not convicted of the charge probably had no appreciable effect upon this sentiment.

It is a pity that the election could not have been held without room for doubt as to the honesty of the officials. No matter what really happened, most of the Anti-saloon workers in Roanoke and throughout the State always will believe that a majority of the voters of Roanoke cast their ballots in favor of a "dry" town. Believing this they resent the presence of the saloon in Roanoke far more than they did before. Furthermore, this belief will help to stir the more radical prohibitionists into making a more imperative demand for a State-wide campaign, and will make votes for Statewide prohibition if the question is ever put to a vote of the people.

## FLYING FOR MONEY.

Wilbur Wright's announcement that in all probability he will never again fly for money turns a fresh nail on the character of the man. He says that he and his brother are engaged in a serious study of the science of aviation, and have no time for the giving of "aideshowes." The last word is a little unfortunate. The aeroplane has far from reached the dead level of a sideshow as yet. Its working is educative in a high degree and is a matter of keen and intelligent interest to very large numbers of people who care nothing for Borneo wild men. But this is a detail. What impresses one most about Wright's announcement is his evidence of serious and high purpose and his sturdy indifference to the large money rewards that are his for the asking.

The men who are first ready to satisfy public interest in any matter of scientific invention or discovery find a golden harvest ripe under their hand. Witness Dr. Cook. Flying without gas is properly a very high-paid pursuit just now. In the first place it is very difficult, and there are only a few score men in the world who can do it; in the next, it is decidedly dangerous. Glenn H. Curtiss is said to have received \$5,000 for exhibiting one of his machines through an understudy at the State Fair this week. To a New York contemporary we are indebted for further figures as to the pay of aviators. Henry Farman is to receive \$10,000 for a week's exhibition in England, while Sommer and Paulman will each get \$5,000. Curtiss got the latter amount for his short engagement from the Hudson-Pulton Commission. One flight at Veuve and two "conferences" netted Blierot \$15,000, while Hubert Latham will get no less than \$50,000 for his exhibitions at Berlin. One aviator estimates his probable earnings for next year at \$100,000. Wilbur Wright on Monday was offered \$10,000 for a successful flight at Albany.

Plainly the pickings ready for the world's small group of leading aviators are remarkably choice. Probably every flight of any length teaches these bold pioneers something, lays bare some weakness to be conquered, suggests some new difficulty to be overcome. But progress must chiefly come, as Mr. Wright suggests, from those who fly to learn how to fly better, not from those whose primary aim is to make money. It takes some courage to turn one's back on the flood of dollars that comes to them so easily, but these Wrights are after a far greater reward.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

## CONSERVATION OF LIFE.

It is not time that the discussion of policies and personalities in the controversy over the conservation of the natural resources of the country give way to a real conservation movement, such as the conservation of the lives of the toilers in the mines? A report from the geological survey, entitled "The Production of Coal in 1908," makes the grim announcement, in the most casual manner, that 2,450 miners were killed in the coal mines last year, and 6,772 injured. The chapter detailing the accidents is treated as but an incident in the production of coal, several thousand words telling the condition of the coal business in the various States. Yet, to the men who work in the underground pits there is a terrible meaning in the figures. There is further significance in the statement that the death rate in the mines of the United States for the year was 3.6 for every 1,000 men employed. In Europe the death rate in the coal mines is 1 in 1,900 employed, and not more than 2 under the most unfavorable circumstances.

Why is it that Americans are so much more careless of this most valuable of all resources? Do we value human life less than they do in European countries? Are we ahead in industrial progress, scientific achievement, and everything else that goes to make life worth while, except re-

## PROPER CLOTHES FOR MEN

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WASHINGTON AVENUE  
Newport News, Va.

gard for the life of the man himself?

Here is a fine opportunity for the leaders of the conservation movement to do something real, something tangible. The savings of a single human life means more than all the talk of policies. It perhaps means one less widow thrown, with her family, upon the charity of the world. Multiply this saving by 1,200 or 1,600 (and this is the number of miners whose lives would have been saved had we the same standards as Europe), and there would be a conservation movement worth all the rest.—Washington Post.

## REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

A man could go to church much more eagerly if it were through a side door.

Nearly every man can see all the beauty of married life till he gets into it.

The more a man could do for the public the more he would want the public to do it for him.

When the average man doesn't make a show of himself in an argument it's because nobody will give him the chance.

A man can get more excited over who discovered something that doesn't mean anything to anybody than over why he can't pay his own bills.—New York Press.

## POINTED PARAGRAPH.

It's some satisfaction to the widow to realize that she looks well in black.

No, Alonzo, the date of a woman's birth has nothing to do with her age.

The bass drum covers a multitude of mistakes made by the rest of the band.

A drop of ink on a woman's white skirt may make her think unspeakable thoughts.

Occasionally a man enjoys making social calls because he knows he will never have to convince a coward that discretion is the better part of valor.—Chicago News.

## The Unfortunate One.

Jean Paul Laurens, the famous French painter, was the son of an honest cart driver of Toulouse. At one time when the painter was at the height of the Parisian reputation it happened that two old women at Toulouse were talking about the Laurens family.

"Let me see," said one, "there were two boys, weren't there?"

"Yes."

"What became of them?"

"Oh, one's a grocer right here in Toulouse. He does a very good business."

"And the other one?"

"The younger one? He went off to Paris and became an artist."

"Dear, dear! And his father such a good, worthy man!"—Youth's Companion.

## Skillful Driving.

First Irishman (in London tube)—"Sure an 'tis a mighty strange way of traveling."

Second Irishman—Bedad, 'tis a wonder we don't strike and hunt some wather pipe!—London Punch.

## Kansas Art Critic in Rome.

A letter from William Allen White says that most of the fine paintings in the galleries in Rome are of the same sort that Carrie Nation smashed in the Wichita barroom when she first started on her career.—Kansas City Star.

## Not Long to Be Cast Down.

A brave man's spirit its vigor soon regains.—Homer.

## DR. COOK GIVEN OVATION BY CHICAGO AUDIENCE

Brooklyn Physician Again Refers to Commander Peary in Lecture—Leads Pageant at St. Louis.

(By Associated Press.)  
CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 8.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the Arctic explorer, told the story of his discovery of the north pole to an enthusiastic audience here tonight after he had been extended a welcome by a special committee from the Hamilton Club. The coliseum where Dr. Cook lectured was crowded and the speaker was given an ovation as he appeared upon the rostrum.

In his lecture Dr. Cook referred again to his polar rival, Commander Peary, as one of the greatest of polar explorers, mentioning him in a galaxy of Arctic scientists whose names will live in history.

Dr. Cook left after the lecture for Detroit.

Dr. Cook Heads Pageant.  
ST. LOUIS, MO., Oct. 8.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook, Arctic explorer, headed the most impressive of the centennial week pageants today, the military, historical and educational parade. The greeting given the explorer was declared to have been the most enthusiastic he had experienced since his arrival at Copenhagen.

He rode in the Adolphus Busch landau drawn by four horses and surrounded by mounted police who kept the crowds from capturing the explorer. Another popular feature of the parade was the appearance of the officers and men of the United States torpedo boat fleet. The "Jackies" were received with deafening cheers all along the line of march.

Capt De Gerlache Believes Cook.

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 8.—Captain De Gerlache, who commanded the Duke of Orleans' yacht *Belgia* in the Antarctic expedition of 1907, has arrived here. He says that he does not doubt one word of Dr. Cook's statement that he reached the north pole and declares he cannot understand how anyone who knows Cook can doubt his story. He is absolutely confident that the American explorer, with the instruments he carried, would be able to determine within one-sixtieth of a degree where the pole was located.

## Whistling and Weeping Trees.

Among the curiosities of tree life is the sofar, or whistling tree of Nubia. When the winds blow over this tree it gives out flute-like sounds, playing away to the wilderness for hours at a time strange, weird melodies. It is the spirit of the dead singing among the branches, the natives say, but the scientific white man says that the sounds are due to a myriad of small holes which insect bores in the spines of the branches.

The weeping tree of the Canary Islands is another arboreal freak. This tree in the driest weather will rain down showers from its leaves, and the natives gather up the water from the pool formed at the foot of the trunk and find it pure and fresh. The tree exudes the water from innumerable pores at the ends of the leaves.—Chicago Journal.

Her Reason.  
"Why did you shake Willie for that homely little Johnnie Jinks?"

"Well, you see, Willie's only going to be a preacher when he grows up, and Jimmie's a-going to be one of them there millionaires."—Chicago Journal.

## Real Deep Sea Fish.

In the beginning of the last century halibut migrated to deeper and deeper water, until they are now caught in depths of 150 to 350 fathoms, in deep sea valleys. Halibut capture cod by stunning them with strokes of the tail. The roe of a 350-pound halibut weighing 44 pounds, was over two feet long and contained more than 2,000,000 eggs, says Prof. David Starr Jordan.

## Not Qualified for the Job.

Father (impressively)—"My son, I want you to be very attentive to your new teacher, who is a man of wide and general information. He can teach you everything you need to know." Small Boy (derisively)—"He? He don't know nothin'! Why, he can't even tell who's pitchin' in the league teams."

## Catching Pigs with Baryta.

An old practice of gypsies was to poison pigs and then eat the flesh when thrown away by the farmers. This poison was carbonate of baryta, and was safe, provided all parts that were near the entrails were carefully washed and soaked. Gypsies call it "drab."

## Singular and Plural.

Whenever she gets to thinking how much they're in debt it affects her nerves. "Huh! the way it affects her husband is singular." "How singular?" "Just singular, it affects his nerve." He tried to borrow a hundred from me to-day.—Catholic Standard and Times.

The Way to Happiness.  
To look fearlessly upon life; to accept the laws of nature, not with meek resignation, but as her sons, who dare to search and question; to have peace and confidence within our souls—these are the beliefs that make for happiness.—Waterlack.

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## CAMPAIGN AGAINST "NEER-BEER"

Georgia Women's Christian Temperance Union's Sweeping Resolution.

(By Associated Press.)  
MACON, GA., Oct. 8.—The Georgia Women's Christian Temperance Union today passed sweeping resolutions urging effort to rid the state of "near-beer"; to make illegal the various methods of advertising liquor, and to secure constitutional prohibition.

The resolutions also advocate prohibition of cigarettes and other forms of tobacco to minors; compulsory education, and steps to stop white slave traffic.

Mrs. T. E. Patterson, of Griffin, was chosen president. Madison, Ga., is the next place of meeting.

## JURY ACQUITS NEGRO MAN OF GRAVE CHARGE

John Foam Was Charged With Criminally Assaulting a Little Negro Girl at Grafton.

In the Circuit Court of York county yesterday, the jury in the case of John Foam, a young negro, charged with criminally assaulting Lelia Roane, a small negro girl, returned a verdict of "not guilty" after being out ten minutes. The alleged offense took place on May 30 at Grafton.

Commonwealth's Attorney Conway H. Shields, of York county, prosecuted the case, while Attorneys J. Thomas Newsome and W. R. Walker, colored, of this city, defended Foam. The defense contended that the girl was sixteen years old and used the records of the county public schools to prove that she had given that as her age when admitted to the schools a year ago.

## Curtiss Makes Short Flight.

(By Associated Press.)  
ST. LOUIS, MO., Oct. 8.—Under adverse conditions Glenn Curtiss, by a flight in his biplane late this afternoon in Forest Park, received the applause and cheers of the many thousands of persons who had waited for hours for the wind of Slacken. George Francois Osment and Hugh Robinson, of St. Louis, attempted to make their machines fly, but failed.

## Idleness is an Atrophy.

The prosperity of a people is proportionate to the number of hands and minds usefully employed. To the community, idleness is a fever, corruption is a gangrene and idleness is an atrophy. Whatever body or society wastes more than it acquires must gradually decay, and every being that continues to be fed and ceases to labor takes away something from the public stock.—Dr. Johnson.

## Tribes Have Retrograded.

It seems strange that though Hebrew was the seat of the earliest civilization in Palestine, to-day the inhabitants of the surrounding country are wild and fierce and spend their days roaming about with their flocks, camels and asses, traveling from valley to valley in search of food, pitching their tents, just as their ancestors did 1,600 years ago.

## Professor Got Results.

It is said a noted professor of chemistry, who is always experimenting, thought his three attractive children too lethargic, and so he administered a diet of yeast. The result has been prompt and effective. According to neighboring observations, the professor will have to prescribe sedatives next time.

## The Way to Happiness.

To look fearlessly upon life; to accept the laws of nature, not with meek resignation, but as her sons, who dare to search and question; to have peace and confidence within our souls—these are the beliefs that make for happiness.—Waterlack.

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